United Nations

Daily Highlights

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FRIDAY HIGHLIGHTS

• Security Council, in statement issued by President, says that sanctions imposed by resolution 864 (1993) will come into force tomorrow night if cease-fire is not established in Angola and if UNITA does not implement Bicesse Peace Accords.

• Secretary-General condemns renewed hostilities in Abkhazia, Georgia, particularly attacks on aircraft near Sukhumi; reiterates Security Council's call for cease-fire, citing upcoming negotiations in Geneva.

• Iraq informs Special Commission on disarmament that it will no longer prevent activation of monitoring cameras at two rocket test stands, clearing way for resumption of technical talks in Baghdad.

• Foreign Ministers of Guyana and Venezuela, meeting with Secretary-General and his Special Representative, reiterate their determination to settle controversy between their countries peacefully.

• Welcoming installation of new democratic Government of Cambodia, Secretary-General congratulates Cambodian people and newly elected King Sihanouk on their achievement; says United Nation will continue to support Cambodia in years ahead.

• Secretary-General, in report to Security Council, urges Greece and former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue confidence-building efforts; says agreement on direct discussions shows that both countries want to resolve their differences.

• ANC President Nelson Mandela calls for lifting of economic sanctions against South Africa but urges that mandatory sanctions relating to arms and nuclear matters be maintained until new government has been formed.

• UNOSOM II Justice Division to certify reopening of Somali courts in Mogadishu on Monday, with 480 cases pending.

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The Security Council today said that unless the Secretary-General reported that an effective cease-fire was in place in Angola, and that the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA) was effectively implementing the Bicesse Peace Accords and relevant Council resolutions, the oil and arms embargo imposed by resolution 864 (1993) would come into force at midnight tomorrow. That resolution, which was adopted on 15 September, provided for a 10-day period before the imposition of sanctions against the territory of Angola not controlled by the Government.

In a statement issued today by its President, the Security Council insisted that UNITA fully respect and abide by the Bicesse Accords and that the parties should make every effort to restart negotiations. Resolution 864 (1993) was very clear in its provisions and the mandatory sanctions would be enforced if they were not satisfied. The Council warned that it would consider further measures if no action was forthcoming by 1 November.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today said he was deeply saddened by the suffering inflicted on innocent civilians in Abkhazia, Georgia, as a result of the renewed fighting there, according to a United Nations spokesman. The Secretary-General was particularly shocked by attacks on Georgian aircraft in the area of Sukhumi on 21, 22 and 23 September, which were reported to have resulted in numerous casualties.

It was deplorable that hostilities were continuing unabated despite the Security Council's call last week for the immediate restoration of the cease-fire, the Secretary-General said. He stressed that the Council's request should be heeded without delay, noting that a cease-fire would greatly help negotiations for a comprehensive political settlement due to begin in Geneva on 30 September under the auspices of Special Envoy Edouard Brunner.

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Iraq yesterday informed the Special Commission concerned with the disposal of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction that it would no longer prevent the activation of the monitoring cameras installed by the Commission at two rocket test stands in the country. The Commission, in a press release issued today, said it had instructed the inspection team currently in Iraq to go ahead with activating and operating the cameras.

The Commission had made activation of the cameras a precondition for continuing the high level technical talks begun in New York on 31 August. Those talks will now be resumed in Baghdad. In preparation, an advance Commission team will go there next week to receive the information promised by Iraq during the meetings in New York.

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The Executive Chairman of the Commission is scheduled to arrive in Baghdad on 1 October with the aim of resolving all outstanding issues, in particular the initiation of ongoing monitoring and verification activities specified in plans approved by the Security Council.

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Nelson Mandela, President of the African National Congress of South Africa (ANC), today called for the lifting of economic sanctions against that country. Addressing the Special Committee against Apartheid, he said those sanctions had brought South Africa to the point where the transition to democracy had now been enshrined in the law of the country. Lifting them should not be seen as an act of abstention but as one of engagement, to create the best possible social and economic conditions for the victory of the democratic cause.

He stressed, however, that South Africans had not yet elected a democratic government and that the white minority Government should not be granted recognition and treated as if it were representative of all the people of South Africa. He urged that mandatory sanctions relating to arms and nuclear matters be maintained until a new government had been formed. "We would leave the issue of the oil embargo to the discretion of the Committee of the General Assembly responsible for the enforcement of this particular sanction," he added. He also asked the Security Council to begin considering what the Organization should do to assist in ensuring that the forthcoming elections were free and fair.

Yesterday, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali met with President F.W. de Klerk and congratulated him on the South African Parliament's historic approval of the establishment of the Transitional Executive Council. The Council will provide the country's first ever non-racial participation in government in the run-up to general elections next April. The Secretary-General said that he would strengthen the United Nations Observer Mission in South Africa (UNOMSA), and assured President de Klerk that the Organization was ready to help the people of South Africa to establish a democratic, non-racist State.

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The Foreign Minister of Guyana, Clement James Rohee, and the Foreign Minister of Venezuela, Fernando Ochoa Antich, met today at Headquarters with Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali and his Special Representative Sir Alister McIntyre. Both Ministers reiterated their Governments' determination to achieve a peaceful settlement of the controversy between the two States through the Good Offices of the Secretary-General, according to a United Nations spokesman.

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It was noted that the maintenance of dialogue was essential for achieving a lasting resolution of the matter, and that the Secretary-General had a signifiant role to play in that process. The Secretary-General stressed that his Office would continue to be at the disposal of both States, and complimented them on the cordial atmosphere in which their contacts and discussions were proceeding.

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Welcoming the installation this morning of the new Government of Cambodia, Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali today congratulated the Cambodian people on their historic achievement. He said in a statement that under the guidance of Prince Norodom Sihanouk -- who was today elected King of Cambodia -- they had overcome two decades of strife and devastation and had laid a sound foundation for rebuilding a peaceful and democratic country.

The United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC) had thus ended its mandate today, the Secretary-General said. The successful conclusion showed what the international community could achieve when it was united and determined in pursuit of a worthy goal, and when the people concerned were willing to make mutual concessions. The Cambodian people and their Government would continue to need the assistance of the international community in the years ahead, he continued, and the United Nations would remain committed to supporting Cambodia as it faced the challenge of post-conflict nation building.

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Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali has urged Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to continue their confidence-building efforts and to refrain from any action which might contribute to tension between them. In a report dated 22 September, the Secretary-General regretted that it had not been possible to resolve the differences between the two countries before the beginning of the General Assembly's forty-eighth session, as called for in Security Council resolution 845 (1993). However, he continued, by meeting in the presence of Cyrus Vance last month and agreeing to hold ongoing, direct discussions, both countries had demonstrated a desire to resolve the situation.

The recent dissolution of the Greek Parliament and the calling of elections for 10 October would not affect the direct talks, which would take place as scheduled at the end of this month, according to the report.

The Secretary-General stressed that the normalization of relations between Greece and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia would contribute to peace and stability in the region, and pledged that he and Mr. Vance would stand ready to assist the parties in their efforts to resolve their differences.

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The Justice Division of the United Nations Operation in Somalia (UNOSOM II) will certify the reopening of Somali courts in Mogadishu on Monday, a United Nations spokesman said today. There are some 480 cases waiting to be heard by the courts.

As part of its mandate to reestablish the country's court system, UNOSOM II had set up the Judiciary Reestablishment Council (JRC) -- comprised entirely of Somalis -- to select judges and monitor developments. The JRC has established a Court of Appeals and a Regional Court in Mogadishu, and four district courts elsewhere in the country.

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Correction:

In the Daily Highlights of Thursday, 23 September 1993, the first sentence in the third paragraph on page 4 should have read: "The World Bank will hold a Donors' Conference in Paris on 22 October, before which it will conclude the framework for the programme of transition from relief and recovery to reconstruction and development in Somalia."

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